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PARENTS:

Here are some answers
to questions you
may have about
Atari Computer Camps

The camp experience that lasts a lifetime.

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1. Q. What's a computer camp?

A. Our computer camp is a place where campers have *FUN* while they are learning about computers. Atari Computer Camp provides a well rounded program of instruction and traditional camp activities. Our campers reside in comfortable, safe dormitories with campus dining and sports facilities available for their use. There is approximately one counselor for every six youngsters.

2. Q. Why pick an Atari Computer Camp?

A. In the tradition of Atari excellence, a team of camping and computer experts were brought together and created a very special program. Through a curriculum that has been designed by individuals at the forefront of computer literacy, Atari campers are exposed to state-of-the-art equipment. In addition to extensive use of distinguished outside consultants, Atari has a full-time team of professionals in computers and education dedicated to Atari Computer Camps. The traditional part of the camping program was developed by members of the American Camping Association who have operated sleep-away camps for over twenty-five years.

3. Q. Why a co-ed camp?

A. A co-ed program is a better balanced, more well-rounded program. It allows campers of both sexes to develop important social skills. Boys and girls will be housed on separate floors or separate wings of dormitory buildings.

4. Q. What are the qualifications of the staff?

A. Computer staff members are selected for their computer knowledge and ability to instruct. Camp counselors are carefully screened so that your child will be living with a counselor who is not only highly competent and understanding, but also can relate effectively to your child.

5. Q. What will my child learn about computers?

A. Using ATARI Home Computers in a hands-on environment, campers learn practical specifics as well as conceptual principles. Every camper is taught how to use powerful software, like a word processor, electronic worksheet, file manager, and a mailing list program. Depending on their level of computer literacy and length of stay, campers are exposed to the specifics of PILOT and BASIC, two of the most popular programming languages in use today. Since computer science is such a fast-changing field, campers will develop skills that can be generalized to other programming languages they will encounter later on. Most significantly, youngsters can learn and sharpen programming skills, discovering that the computer is a tool that will serve them the rest of their lives.

6. Q. What practical benefits will be derived from the

computer curriculum?

A. Benefits derived from the computer curriculum can include:

- Improved problem-solving skills.
- Programming skills useful today for writing programs in areas of interest your child may wish to explore.
- Programming skills useful tomorrow for doing scientific programming or business applications.
- An understanding of how computers can be used to better our lives in art, music and other creative endeavors.

7. Q. Will computer instruction help my child with his or her homework?

A. Computer instruction will not necessarily help all children with homework; however, the potential exists for computer instruction to improve the youngsters' general problem-solving skills. As a result, a potential benefit is that many children develop an increased level of confidence and do not give up on problems as easily.

8. Q. Is the knowledge my child learns applicable to other computers?

A. While each computer has its own special attributes and features, the knowledge your child acquires at camp will be applicable to other computers. The general knowledge gained is a good basis for moving on to other languages and other computers.

9. **Q.** Will my child be able to teach me how to use the computer?

A. If your child is a beginner at camp and is enrolled for the two-week session, she/he will be able to show you how to operate an Atari computer by LOADing and RUNning specific software titles. She/he will also be able to demonstrate fundamental programming concepts through applications in graphics and sound, using the PILOT language.

10. **Q.** What is the ratio of computers to campers in a classroom setting?

A. We never require that more than two campers use any one computer at the same time. In most cases, there will be more than one computer for every two campers. We have found through our experience that learning can be increased by asking campers to work together at one computer—sharing their time and their ideas.

11. **Q.** What are the camp activities?

A. All sports are noncompetitive and a form of healthful exercise. While specific activities vary from location to location, all camps offer swimming, tennis, aerobics, arts and crafts, drama and team sports. Our athletic program is designed for fun rather than competition. Small group instruction allows for individual attention to each camper's needs.

12. **Q.** Will my youngster go on any field trips?

A. Recognizing that most children lead a very regimented existence the rest of the year, we break up our routine with expeditions like hiking, bowling, or roller skating, depending on the camp location.

13. **Q.** Will my child be left out?

A. No camper is ever left out of any activity or permitted to sit on the sidelines. By having your child in the proper age group, he or she can be given individual attention and encouraged to participate in every program and activity.

14. **Q.** Will my child be with

other campers of the same age?

A. Yes. At Atari Computer Camps, each camper is placed according to age and computer skills for computer instruction and placed according to age for rooming, athletic and other instruction.

15. **Q.** What kind of menu is followed?

A. Our menus are planned by nutritionists and supervised by an expert dietitian. All meals and snacks are more than adequate and provide a nutritious, healthful, and balanced meal. Your child can eat all he or she wants.

16. **Q.** What are your sleeping accommodations?

A. At each camp we have selected facilities that offer modern residence halls. Your child will be living with another camper his or her own age, and each group of rooms is supervised by mature college counselors. Each building has modern toilet facilities. Evening curfew varies according to the ages of the campers.

17. **Q.** What are the laundry facilities?

A. Your child needs only one week's supply of clothing as there are laundry facilities in each building. With help from the counselors, campers do their own laundry.

18. **Q.** Are there any special clothes needed?

A. No. We will offer a suggested clothing list as a guide for your convenience. Parents should realize that in a camp situation, expensive clothing is not necessary. No dress up clothing is required. An official Atari Computer Camp T-shirt will be provided to all campers at no additional charge.

19. **Q.** What about linen service?

A. Clean linen (sheets and pillow cases) is provided once a week at each camp. At some locations campers need to bring their own towels. Please check the Location Brochure for details.

20. **Q.** Do you have adequate medical facilities?

A. At each camp we have a registered nurse, plus a hospital and doctor in close proximity, providing quick access to facilities in case of emergency. Our well-equipped infirmary is staffed by a nurse who lives at camp and is on call at all times.

21. **Q.** Does my child need spending money?

A. For each two-week session attended by your child, we recommend from \$10 to \$15 spending money for stamps, personal needs (like toothpaste), stationery and any little "extras" your child may wish to buy.

22. **Q.** Do you have visiting day?

A. Yes. You will have an opportunity to visit and actually see what your child has been doing at Atari Computer Camps. Details on visiting day can be found in the Parent Handbook which will be received upon enrollment.

23. **Q.** Can my child extend his or her stay?

A. Yes. Our program is designed in modules so that extending your child's stay will provide him or her with an enriching learning experience. Minimum extension is one week.

24. **Q.** How do I bring my child to camp?

A. Many parents prefer to drive their children to camp. For those who wish to have them travel by other means, we will furnish a list of transportation alternatives to the particular camp you select. Arrivals are planned so that campers are met at the airport or other convenient locations and then transported to camp.

25. **Q.** How do I enroll my child?

A. Please complete the enclosed application form and send it to Atari Computer Camps with a deposit of \$100. After your camper is enrolled, a clothing list, medical forms, travel suggestions and all other necessary information will be forwarded to you.

26. **Q.** Can we contact previous campers from our area?

A. We will be very pleased to furnish names and addresses of former campers from your area.